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SOCIAL SECURITY EXEMPTION REDUCED TO SENSE-OF-CONGRESS RESOLUTION

(Mr. KLECZKA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor this morning to expose a caper which will be unfolding later today. A couple days ago I and several of my colleagues went to the Committee on Rules to ask to be made in order a balanced budget amendment which would exempt Social Security.

However, the Committee on Rules did not report favorably on that, and will deny us a very clean vote on exempting Social Security from the balanced budget amendment. What they did was produce a sense-of-Congress resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 17, which would exempt Social Security from any bills coming out of committees.

Know full well, this is the same mechanism, Mr. Speaker, that we declare National Pickle Week around here, so the Republicans are treating the trust fund for Social Security as if it were National Pickle Week. Know full well, it is becoming very clear to me and other people that the \$423 billion surplus that currently is in the trust fund will be on the table once this balanced budget amendment passes.

I support the balanced budget amendment, but let us not take that contract we have made with our seniors and destroy it because of this. The end result, Mr. Speaker, is that once this balanced budget amendment goes to the States, it will be defeated.

TRIBUTE TO THE SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

(Mr. CUNNINGHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell the Members the disdain I have for some of my colleagues for not supporting the San Diego Chargers. I rise today to pay tribute to the new champions of the American Football Conference, the San Diego Chargers. It is no secret that America's finest city has now America's finest football team.

Mr. Speaker, I want to salute president Alex Spanos and general manager Bobby Beathard, who have defied skeptics and produced a world class team through perseverance, hard work, and a little luck and a little stealth; to coach Bobby Ross and his team of coaches who are proven motivators; and, finally, to the players, the San Diego

team, a team who the Nation's experts picked to finish last.

I would say to the minority, Mr. Speaker, never ever not support your home team, but always take the point spread, and I would say to the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI], the Sees candy is going to taste great.

AMERICANS GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT IN DISPUTES WITH THE IRS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I say to my colleagues, tell me, Congress, when did the IRS waive the Bill of Rights? Check this out. In Colorado, the IRS said that David and Millie Evans owed them \$42,000 in back taxes. Three weeks later they said it was a mistake, it is \$100,000, so they settled it for \$22,000.

Evans sent a check. IRS stamped it, received it, and IRS called them and said, "We don't have your check prove it." They took them to court. They lied their house. They sold their business. They took their retirement account, all their bank accounts.

It went to court, the court said the Evanses were not guilty. The IRS appealed the decision, saying the judge wrongfully instructed the jury by saying the burden of proof was on the IRS. They said, "You must overturn this because the tax code is quite clear, the burden of proof is on the Evanses." The case was overturned.

□ 1110

Unbelievable, Congress. If there is a Contract With America, the American people do support much of your contract. They support this contract, the basic tenet of our Bill of Rights: you are innocent until proven guilty, and damn it, if it is good enough for the Son of Sam, it is good enough for mom and dad.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN). The Chair would advise the gentleman from Ohio that he should avoid profanity in his remarks.

TIME TO KEEP THE PROMISE OF A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, last night in response to President Clinton's State of the Union Message, New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman did not need equal time to get her message across. That message was clear.

Governor Whitman did not just promise change, she delivered.

In New Jersey we cut spending and taxes. In New Jersey we have a balanced budget. In New Jersey we have kept our promises.

Just like New Jersey, Americans want a smaller smarter government. They want us to make the tough decisions here. The time for making excuses is over. The time to act on our promises is now. It has worked in New Jersey and it can work here in Washington.

TRUTH-IN-BUDGETING AMENDMENT

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, last night in the President's State of the Union Message he laid out his challenges for this Congress and for the American people to fulfill in the next year. The President asked that these challenges be met in an open, honest bipartisan debate on all of the issues like the balanced budget amendment.

As the President mentioned in his remarks, we Democrats support a balanced budget amendment, with a full and honest debate, not just between majority and minority Members but with the American people.

The American people want to know, as we begin this debate, how are we to balance this budget by the year 2002.

Today we will have an opportunity as we begin this debate to vote for a truth-in-budgeting amendment by the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CONYERS]. I urge all of my colleagues to support the truth-in-budgeting amendment which will tell us how we get to a balanced budget by the year 2002.

How else can we assure the American people they will have a opportunity to participate in this debate, to know whether or not there will be cuts in Medicare, to know whether or not there will be cuts in Social Security? The only way to guarantee it is truth in budgeting.

Support the Conyers amendment.

PASS A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to welcome some young people from my district from the Athens Academy in Georgia who are here in the gallery.

I rise today in support of the balanced budget amendment for young people just like these folks here and young people across the Nation, and my granddaughter.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman should avoid references to those in the gallery.

The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. NORWOOD. We need the balanced budget amendment to force discipline on this body. This Nation is \$5 trillion in debt. It is a debt that we are going to pass on to these young people

unless we act now. It is a debt that continues to grow. It is not enough to say that we would like to have a balanced budget. Were it that easy, we would have done it at least once during their lifetime.

It is clear after 25 years, that we must pass the balanced budget amendment to force this body to act.

Mr. Speaker, we must protect their future. We must take a stand here today so that the next generation will not bear the burden of our mistakes.

I urge my colleagues to support the balanced budget amendment.

DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, after all of the smoke and hot air clears from the debate on the balanced budget amendment, what is the difference between the two parties on this issue?

First, we Democrats support a balanced budget, many of us a constitutional amendment, but unlike the Republicans, we want to specify where the cuts are so that the American people know and the States can plan adequately.

We Democrats support the Constitution and will oppose a supermajority that is clearly unconstitutional. The Republicans do not.

We Democrats believe Social Security should be excluded, and have an amendment clearly stating that. Republicans have an innocuous amendment that better should be known as the "Endangered Chicago Seat Protection Act."

Mr. Speaker, the President last night was bipartisan. He was positive, and we should do the same in this body.

TEN REASONS WHY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, the top 10 reasons why the American people deserve a balanced budget amendment:

No. 10, fiscal discipline does not work.

No. 9, we need to make it as difficult to get into debt as it is going to be to get out of it.

No. 8, the national debt is \$4.6 trillion and climbing.

No. 7, 80 percent of the American people want it.

No. 6, since the people cannot raise their annual income just to meet their bills, Congress should not be able to either.

No. 5, contrary to Democratic rhetoric, tax increases may have never balanced the budget.

No. 4, it is in the Contract With America.

No. 3, businesses balance their budgets, families balance their budgets. Now it is time for the House of Representatives to balance the budget.

No. 2, if we do not pass a balanced budget amendment, even Big Bird will not be able to teach our young children to count as high as the debt is going.

And the No. 1 reason why the American people deserve a balanced budget amendment: Because it would protect the Social Security trust fund from tax-and-spend bureaucrats.

FEEL GOOD RESOLUTION

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting, when I reviewed this morning House Resolution 44 brought up by the Rules Committee, that I find that the first order of business is not a balanced budget amendment but it is really a fraud on the House of Representatives and the American people, which is known as House Concurrent Resolution 17. It is a feel gooder. It does not have any effect. It is not even ever going to be signed into law. It is supposedly going to tell the people, our senior citizens who receive Social Security, that they are not going to be touched. Well, folks, that is not the effect of a concurrent resolution. That basically is a fraud.

The other thing I find in this rule, this is very interesting, is that the other body, the Republican Party, the majority have now admitted that the House Committee on the Judiciary did not follow the rules when they marked up the budget resolution for a balanced budget. Right in here it says, "Points of order against consideration of the joint resolution for failure to comply with clause 2(g)(3) of rule XI are waived."

That is an admission, that is an admission that the Committee on the Judiciary did not follow the rules of the House when they marked up the balanced budget amendment.

Why should we waive that rule? Why should we say that the Committee on the Judiciary does not have to follow the rules of the House?

BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. METCALF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, at the end of every month Americans sit down with a checkbook in one hand and a stack of bills in the other. They realize that you cannot continue to spend what you do not have.

But Congress has never fully accepted that concept. Mr. Speaker, for decades Congress has led this Nation into a sea of red ink. Clearly a constitutional amendment is now the only way

to rescue Congress from itself, and to force it to do what 80 percent of our constituents would have us do; that is, balance the budget.

Some say we do not need an amendment to balance the budget, we just say "no" to the special interests.

□ 1120

They say just balance the budget. They are wrong, tragically wrong.

Jefferson said, "let no more be said of confidence in men but bind them down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution."

TWO MEN WORTHY OF PRAISE

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend two individuals who yesterday performed acts worthy of praise, one a Democrat, and one a Republican.

The first, Mr. Speaker, is President Clinton, who last night delivered a State of the Union Address in this Chamber that laid out a vision for our Nation. It is a vision in which lawmakers put aside their partisan differences and work together for the common good, for the well-being of the American people. It is a vision he calls the new covenant.

The second individual I want to commend, Mr. Speaker, is Congressman GERALD SOLOMON, the chairman of the Committee on Rules in this House. Yesterday, in the spirit of the new covenant, Mr. SOLOMON decided to remove from the wall of his committee room the portrait of Howard W. Smith, a portrait that many Members of this House felt was unworthy to hang in a place of such distinction.

I want to thank Chairman SOLOMON. He is a man of honor, integrity, and good will.

These two men, President Clinton and GERALD SOLOMON, deserve our thanks and our praise.

THE STATE OF THE UNION SPEECH

(Mr. DORNAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, my good friend, JOHN LEWIS, the only two in either Chamber that were there the day Martin Luther King gave his stirring speech, I hate to disagree with him on anything, but I was offended by Clinton's speech last night on 15 points.

I will do a 5-minute special order tonight I have just signed up for. I can only mention four.

The first one is new covenant. The Ark of the Covenant was the Old Covenant. The New Covenant was the Son of God, Jesus Christ. I was offended